

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 05982 091911Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 /088 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4752

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

RUFHLCXAMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE 0003

USMISSION USBERLIN UNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BERLIN 5982

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TP, GE

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT OF SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE VISITS THE GDR

REF: LIBREVILLE 1021

1. PRESIDENT AND GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE FREEDOM MOVEMENT OF SAO TOME AND PRICIPE, DR. MANUEL PINTO DA COSTA, MADE AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC FROM APRIL 26-30, 1977. HIS HOST IN THE GDR WAS HORST SINDERMAN, POLITBURO MEMBER AND PRESIDENT OF THE VOLKSKAMMER. IN A BREAK WITH PRACTICE, DR. DA COSTA APPARENTLY DID NOT MEET WITH ERICH HONECKER, GDR CHIEF OF STATE. DURING THE COURSE OF HIS VISIT, DA COSTA INVITED HONECKER TO VISIT SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE, AN INVITATION WHICH WAS ACCEPTED.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, THE DA COSTA VISIT WAS DIVIDED INTO TWOPARTS; TWO DAYS OF CEREMONIAL EVENTS IN EAST BERLIN AND TWO DAYS VISITING THE GDR SEAPORT TOWN OF ROSTOCK. IN BERLIN, HE HELD A RECEPTION FOR  
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PAGE 02 BERLIN 05982 091911Z

THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND MADE THE USUAL ROUND OF VISITS TO THE BRANDENBURG GATE, THE MEMORIAL ON UNTER DEN LINDEN, ETC. HIS TIME IN ROSTOCK WAS DEVOTED TO SEEING THE NEPTUNE SHIPYARDS AND TO MEETING WITH LOCAL WORKERS' ORGANIZATION. AT THE END OF THE VISIT, DR. DA COSTA RECEIVED AN HONORARY DOCTORATE FROM THE EAST BERLIN HOCHSCHULE FOR ECONOMICS WHERE IT IS REPORTED

TO HAVE HAVE STUDIED AT SOMETIME DURING THE PERIOD FROM  
1967-71.

3. ALTHOUGH THE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF  
THE VISIT CONSUMES NEARLY HALF A PAGE OF NEUES DEUTSCHLAND,  
THERE IS LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE IN IT. THE TOASTS GIVEN  
BY DACOSTA AND HIS HOSTS AT OFFICIAL DINNERS LIKEWISE  
REVEAL LITTLE BUT GENERALITIES. THE MAIN THEMES FOR  
THE VISIT WERE: THE "FREEING" OF SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE  
TWO YEARS AGO REPRESENTED A VICTORY FOR INTERNATIONAL  
SOCIALIST SOLIDARITY AND ANOTHER STEP IN THE STRENGTHENING  
OF SOCIALISM IN AFRICA; AND THERE SOLVE OF BOTH  
COUNTRIES TO DEVELOP RELATIONS ON SEVERAL LEVELS BUT  
WITHOUT SPECIFYING WHICH.

4. THE MAIN IMPRESSION GIVEN BY NEWS REPORTS IS  
THAT THE VISIT WAS CEREMONIAL WITH POLITICAL OVERTONES.  
ALTHOUGH REFERENCE IS MADE TO THE "SUPPORT" GIVEN TO  
THE "FREEDOM MOVEMENT" OF SAO TOME BY COMMUNIST COUNTRIES  
OVER THE PAST TWO DECADES, NO SPECIFICS ARE GIVEN AS  
TO THE FORM OF SUCH AID OR WHAT FORM ASSISTANCE MIGHT  
TAKE IN FUTURE. SINDERMANN USED THE OCCASION TO  
REPEAT GDR SUPPORT FOR THE "FREEING" OF BOTH NAMIBIA  
AND SIMBABWE.

5. EAST GERMAN WATCHERS NOTE THAT THE GDR ESTABLISHED  
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SAO TOME ONE DAY AFTER THE  
COUNTRY DECLARED ITS INDEPENDENCE ON JULY 12, 1975  
AND THAT THERE IS AN ACCREDITED GDR AMBASSADOR, WERNER  
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PAGE 03 BERLIN 05982 091911Z

DORDAN, WHO IS RESIDENT IN BRAZZAVILLE. THERE IS NO AMBASSADOR  
FROM SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE IN EAST BERLIN.

6. COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT THE VISIT TO DR. DA  
COSTA HAS SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE FURTHERANCE OF THE GDR'S  
DESIRE FOR INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION AND IN IDEOLOGICAL  
TERMS TO SHOW THE GDR'S SUPPORT FOR AFRICAN "FREEDOM"  
MOVEMENTS GENERALLY. POLANSKY

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, INDEPENDENCE, SOCIALISM, RECOGNITION, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, INVITATIONS  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Type:** TE  
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